

34. (Amended) A patio door assembly comprising a rectangular main frame including a pair of vertical jamb members rigidly connected by a top head member and a bottom sill member, said main frame further including a vertical astragal member spaced between said jamb members and rigidly connected to said head and sill members, a first door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, a second door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, said astragal member and each of said door panel frames and said members of said main frame comprising extrusions of rigid plastics material, said main frame and each of said door panel frames having welded mitered corner joints, a hinge having an inactive leaf secured to said main frame and an active leaf secured to said frame of said second door panel, said head and jamb members including outwardly projecting double wall exterior portions defining laterally inwardly facing channels, elongated and removable plastic insert strips having an L-shaped cross-sectional configuration and forming snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within said channels, and said strips including laterally inwardly projecting flanges adapted to retain a frame of a sliding screen door within said head and jamb members.

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney gratefully acknowledge the courteous telephone interview on February 24, 2003 with the Examiner in charge of this application. The interview involved a discussion of amended claim 34 which was submitted informally by fax on January 14, 2003 and again on February 21, 2003 along with reasons why the amended claim should be in condition for allowance with claims 23-30, 32 and 33.

As emphasized during the interview, Applicants' patio door assembly, as set forth in amended claim 34, includes elongated and removable plastic insert strips

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(46) having an L-shaped cross-sectional configuration and forming snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within the channels, and the strips including laterally inwardly projecting flanges adapted to retain a frame of a sliding screen door within the head and jam members. FIG. 9 of Miller et al '743 was also discussed during the interview. This patent discloses a flange 168 integral with the header 34 for retaining the top frame rail 114 for the screen 120. The reference in no way suggests Applicants' removable plastic insert strips 46 (FIG'S. 2, 3, & 4) which have snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within the channels defined by the double wall exterior portions (24) of the head and jam members (14 & 18). Applicant structure provides for omitting the strips 46 when a sliding screen door is not desired with the patio door assembly, which is desirable from an appearance standpoint.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that amended claim 34 is in condition for allowance with allowed claims 23-30, 32 and 33, and respectfully request that this application be passed to issue. Attached is a version of amended claim 34 and showing the changes made.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOX, MECKSTROTH & JENKINS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Meckstroth", written over the printed name.

Alan F. Meckstroth

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AFM:js
February 27, 2003
Dayton, Ohio 45419-1575
937/298-2811



VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

34. (Amended) A patio door assembly comprising a rectangular main frame including a pair of vertical jamb members rigidly connected by a top head member and a bottom sill member, said main frame further including a vertical astragal member spaced between said jamb members and rigidly connected to said head and sill members, a first door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, a second door panel within said main frame and including a rectangular door panel frame supporting a glass panel, said astragal member and each of said door panel frames and said members of said main frame comprising extrusions of rigid plastics material, said main frame and each of said door panel frames having welded mitered corner joints, a hinge having an inactive leaf secured to said main frame and an active leaf secured to said frame of said second door panel, said head and jamb members including outwardly projecting double wall exterior portions defining laterally inwardly facing channels, elongated and removable plastic insert strips having an L-shaped cross-sectional configuration and forming snap-fit connections with undercut grooves within said channels, and said strips including laterally inwardly projecting flanges adapted to retain a frame of a sliding screen door within said head and jamb members.

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